



### Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

901 N. 9th Street, Courthouse RM 201

Milwaukee, WI 53233

Phone: 414-278-4232

Fax: 414-223-1380

E-mail: [marina.dimitrijevic@milwcnty.com](mailto:marina.dimitrijevic@milwcnty.com)

Website: [milwaukee.gov/dimitrijevic](http://milwaukee.gov/dimitrijevic)



# CHAT WITH THE CHAIR

## JANUARY 2014

**Dear Neighbors,**

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and your 2014 is off to a great start!

Here at the County Board, we are going through a major transition due to state-imposed budget cuts. We are committed to doing our best to serve the constituents who have elected us to represent them.

Our community is involved in major discussions of how we move our county forward.

As part of my role on the Cultural and Entertainment Needs Task Force, I began what will be a series of open "Coffee & Culture" chat sessions with those who are interested in expressing themselves about the fiscal needs of amenities such as parks, museums, the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Milwaukee Public Museum. In addition, the task force is discussing the need for of a new downtown arena.

The Coffee & Culture chats are a great way to get the pulse of the community on these key issues, and I plan on holding them at County-owned and supported cultural amenities such as the Boerner Botanical Gardens, the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts and the Zoo. I look forward to seeing you at these open sessions.

In addition, I have been working on a plan to bring more renewable energy to Milwaukee County. I introduced a resolution to study the possibility of constructing a solar farm at Gen. Mitchell International Airport. The resolution passed the Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee and will be considered by the full County Board on February 6.

Thank you to the many residents of the 4th District who took our survey and mailed back responses to our office. You can view my newsletter online with the link below. I hope to see you soon in our neighborhood!

### Milwaukee County News Updates

Coffee & Culture at the Milwaukee Art Museum

Cultural Task Force Report

Bus User Safety at Southridge (B.U.S.S.)

Dimitrijevic's Solar Energy Plan Passes Committee

### Marina in our Community

Opening of the New Domestic Violence Unit

Hunger Task Force for Families Thanksgiving Food Drive

Pharmacists from Zambia visit Milwaukee County

Martin Luther King Day

### Save The Date

Plan for Beer Garden in Humboldt Park

Transit Vision Meeting Event

### Winter 2013 4th District Newsletter

Visit my web site to view my [Winter 2013 4th District Newsletter](#) for additional updates, events and community happenings!

# Milwaukee County News Updates



## Coffee & Culture

Marina held the first open “Coffee & Culture” chat at the Cafe Calatrava coffee shop at the Milwaukee Art Museum on January 7.

Marina is a member of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce’s committee on Cultural and Entertainment Capital Needs, which held its first meeting on December 13.

“As we enter into a discussion that will greatly affect the future of our community, it is important I get the chance to listen to the residents of our County about their vision for our cultural, recreational and entertainment amenities,” Marina said. “I plan to have several of these meetings similar to the ‘Chats with the Chair’ sessions last year.”

Milwaukee County has a long, proud tradition of being a major supporter of parks, recreation and the arts. However, we cannot do it alone. These regional assets need regional support from our partners. Milwaukee County residents voted in support of dedicated public funding for parks, culture, and transit via an advisory referendum. I am excited to be at the table of this important discussion and plan to have an open mind with a vision for moving our region forward.

I invite the public to participate in these chat sessions as the community begins this important conversation”

Future Coffee & Culture chat sessions will be held at other County-supported amenities such as the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, the Boerner Botanical Gardens, the Mitchell Park Domes and the Milwaukee County Zoo. Stay tuned for more information about these important sessions.



# *Pulling Back the Curtain:*

Assessing the needs of major arts,  
cultural, recreational, and entertainment  
assets in Milwaukee County

For information about the Cultural Task Force Report visit  
[publicpolicyforum.org/sites/default/files/ArtsCulturePartI.pdf](http://publicpolicyforum.org/sites/default/files/ArtsCulturePartI.pdf)



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## Bus User Safety at Southridge

"Get on the B.U.S.S."



Supervisor Patricia Jursik formed a brand new partnership to address a dangerous problem for Milwaukee County bus riders. It's called "B.U.S.S.", which stands for "Bus User Safety at Southridge".

This movement comes after Simon Property Group, which owns Southridge Mall, chose to move Milwaukee County buses from a mall entrance to a bus stop 1,000 feet from the doors. Getting to the mall now involves navigating through a parking area and dealing with traffic.



Simon Properties' decision is opposed by several groups including the Milwaukee County Department of Aging, Aging and Disability Resources Board and disability rights organizations, including IndependenceFirst, which has been documenting problems with the new bus stop.

A number of Supervisors, including myself, signed a petition respectfully requesting that Simon reconsider this current location and work with our County Department of Transportation to find a suitable alternative that is acceptable to everyone who comes to shop at the mall.

I support the mission of B.U.S.S. and will continue to work to find a solution to this dangerous problem.

To sign a petition encouraging Southridge management to bring the bus stop back to the mall, you can find the B.U.S.S. petition online by [clicking here](#).



# Milwaukee County News Updates

## Dimitrijevic's Solar Energy Plan Passes Committee

Marina introduced a green power/green jobs resolution which will allow the County to hire a consultant to explore increasing the use of solar power within Milwaukee County. The resolution will also explore the possibility of locating a solar farm on County property at General Mitchell International Airport.

The use of solar power has become more feasible and economically viable in Wisconsin, with the average cost of solar energy systems decreasing from 2012 to 2013. This resolution will allow the County to benefit from the lower costs of creating a solar energy system while also benefiting from energy cost savings and creating jobs. This legislation ensures the County is taking steps to utilize solar energy whenever and wherever possible. In addition, it begins the process for the creation of a solar farm on County property at the airport.

Adopting solar energy helps build on Milwaukee County's rich history of environmental stewardship. Solar energy helps protect Wisconsin's natural resources and advances the energy efficiency and renewable energy provisions of Milwaukee County's 'Green Print' initiative while supporting Wisconsin's goal of 10 percent renewable energy by 2015.

The 'Green Print' initiative was passed in 2007 and it was expanded in 2009 to include a Sustainability Director to oversee the initiative.

New York, Monona, Wis., Dubuque, Iowa and the Indianapolis Airport Authority are among those that have already installed solar panels and have generated both energy savings and revenue from the leasing of property for solar farms. Solar energy is part of the solution to our energy needs. This is the next natural step after my Green Print legislation. The need to use more renewable energy is critical, and this will not only save money, it will also create 'green' jobs in Milwaukee County.

The measure was passed 4-3 by the Board's Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee, and it will come before the full County Board at its next meeting on Feb. 6.





# Marina in our Community

## Opening of the New Domestic Violence Unit

Marina plans on attending the opening of the new Domestic Violence Unit on Feb. 4 at the Safety Building. District Attorney John Chisholm will recognize the support he received from the County Board, the County Executive and his administration for their support in making the unit a reality.

The event will be held at noon at the Domestic Violence Unit in Room 303 of the Safety Building.

Among those joining Marina and Chisholm will be the County Executive, members of the County Board, Sojourner Family Peace Center Director Carmen Pitre, Chief Judge Jeffrey Kremers and other community leaders.



Chairwoman Dimitrijevic and Supervisor Romo West volunteered at the Hunger Task Force Food for Families Thanksgiving food drive



Marina welcomed pharmacists from Zambia to Milwaukee County. They are studying HIV prevention.



Chairwoman Dimitrijevic celebrates Martin Luther King Day at Milwaukee County's Martin Luther King Community Center. She read from Dr. King's sermon, American Dream.

# Save the Date

## Plan in Place for Beer Garden at Humboldt Park

Supervisor Jason Haas, along with the Milwaukee County Parks Department and Humboldt Park Watch, is excited to announce a plan to bring a beer garden to Humboldt Park this summer.

The beer garden would be in partnership with St. Francis Brewery and, if approved, would begin operations in May 2014.

"This is a great opportunity for Humboldt Park to show off what the neighborhood has to offer," Supervisor Haas said. "We are hoping to build off the great tradition of Chill on the Hill by bringing more people to this jewel of Bay View."

Supervisor Haas will join Humboldt Park Watch in hosting a community open house to get public input on the beer garden proposal. Representatives from the County Parks Department and St. Francis Brewery will be on hand to answer questions about the plan.

**WHAT:** Open House on Humboldt Park Beer Garden Proposal

**DATE:** Monday, February 10th

**TIME:** 5:00 – 7:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Humboldt Park Pavilion Meeting Room

## Community Conversation on Transportation: A Vision for Metro Milwaukee



Join us for a fast-paced conversation, hear from community visionaries, and pitch in your ideas that will strengthen our communities, spur economic opportunities, and create the lifestyle that you imagine.

**WHAT:** Community Conversation on Transportation: A Vision for Milwaukee

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 6, 2014

**TIME:** 5:00 networking and refreshments, 5:30-7:00PM program

**WHERE:** Manpower World Headquarters (100 Manpower Place, Milwaukee, WI 53212)

**Space is limited for this unique event! Register early by registering [HERE \(goo.gl/anGzbN\)](http://goo.gl/anGzbN) by Monday, February 3.**

This event is free of charge. Refreshment served. For more information: [kthomas@transitnow.org](mailto:kthomas@transitnow.org), 266-246-6151